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Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2016–2017 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters

Voluntary indicative scale of contributions for the biennium 2014–2015

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note provides information on the voluntary indicative scale of contributions for the biennium 2014–2015 and how the scale has been adapted in the light of the universal membership of the United Nations Environment Programme, as referred to in paragraph 26 of Governing Council decision 27/13.

* UNEP/EA.1/1.

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I. History of the establishment and application of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions

1. In its decision SS.VII/1, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), at its seventh special session, held in Cartagena, Colombia, in 2002, adopted the report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance, which was set out in the appendix to the decision.

2. In paragraphs 16 and 17 of its report, the Open-ended Working Group stated that all Member States of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies should contribute financially to UNEP and, towards that end, called for the establishment of a voluntary indicative scale of contributions to broaden the base of contributions and to enhance predictability in the voluntary financing of the Environment Fund. The voluntary scale was to be developed taking into account, among other things, the United Nations scale of assessment and the following factors:

(a) A minimum indicative rate of 0.001 per cent;

(b) A maximum indicative rate of 22 per cent;

(c) A maximum indicative rate for the least developed countries of 0.01 per cent;

(d) The economic and social circumstances of the Member States, in particular those of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(e) Provisions to allow for any Member State in a position to do so to increase its level of contributions over and above its current level.

3. The Open-ended Working Group confirmed, furthermore, that all contributions to the Fund would remain voluntary and each State reserved the right to determine whether or not it wished to contribute voluntarily to the Fund. However, all Member States, taking into account their economic and social circumstances, would be encouraged to contribute to the Environment Fund either on the basis of the indicative scale of contributions or on the basis of any of the following:

(a) Biennial pledges;

(b) United Nations scale of assessments;

(c) Historical level of contributions;

(d) Any other basis identified by the Member State;

4. In response to the Council's adoption of the Working Group's report, the Executive Director of UNEP launched a pilot phase of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions for one year, 2003. During the same year, the guiding principles and criteria for the voluntary indicative scale of contributions were further elaborated and presented to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session. The guiding principles and criteria included a call to all the countries that were paying equal to or above the United Nations scale to maintain their high levels of contributions and to countries in a position to do so to consider making higher payments over and above their level of contribution. All the developed countries, countries with economies in transition and many developing countries that were contributing below the United Nations scale were invited to increase their contributions gradually and pay closer to the United Nations scale and the previous historical high level of contributions.

5. Following the pilot phase, the scale was applied in the biennium 2004–2005, and was subsequently revised for the bienniums 2006–2007, 2008–2009, 2010–2011 and 2012–2013 at the request of the Governing Council. The Council continued to reiterate the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for UNEP.

6. In 2008, the Secretary-General acknowledged the success of the initial result of introducing the voluntary indicative scale of contributions (see A/63/201).

II. Recent commitments by Member States to increasing funding for United Nations Environment Programme, in particular for the Environment Fund

In its resolution 67/213, the General Assembly decided to strengthen and upgrade UNEP in the manner set out in subparagraphs (a) to (h) of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012. As part of that decision, Member States were requested to provide secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources to UNEP both from the regular budget and from voluntary contributions.

7. Following the adoption of the resolution, at its twenty-seventh session and its first universal session, held in February 2013, the Governing Council, in paragraph 19 of its decision 27/2, stressed the need by no later than 2016 to implement the provisions of paragraph 88 (b) of the outcome document.

8. In its resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, the General Assembly urged countries to substantially increase their voluntary contributions to the core budgets of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies (the Environment Fund in the case of UNEP) and contribute on a multi-year basis in a sustained and predictable manner

9. In paragraph 26 of its decision 27/13, the Governing Council noted the positive effect of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions to broaden the base of contributions to, and to enhance predictability in, the voluntary financing of the Environment Fund, and requested the Executive Director to adapt the voluntary indicative scale of contributions in the light of the universal membership of UNEP, in accordance with decisions SS.VII/1 and any subsequent decisions.

10. Furthermore, in paragraph 27 of the same decision, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director in his efforts to mobilize resources for UNEP to take action to strengthen and broaden the donor base of the Environment Fund.

III. Application of the 2014–2015 voluntary indicative scale of contributions in support of the commitments made by Member States

11. The provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly and the decisions of the Governing Council on strengthening UNEP funding, in particular for its Environment Fund, were applied to the 2014–2015 programme of work and budget of UNEP. In accordance with Governing Council decision 27/13, the Environment Fund, which is the primary source of non-earmarked funding for UNEP, is to receive contributions worth $110 million in 2014 and $135 million in 2015.

12. The voluntary indicative scale of contributions for 2014–2015 was adjusted accordingly:

(a) The decision taken in Cartagena at the seventh special session to take into account the United Nations scale of assessments and the economic and social circumstances of member States in the preparations of the scale was brought to the fore in the 2014–2015 scale: member States are being requested to contribute at least on the same percentage basis as their United Nations assessed scale level for 2013–2015, which reflects their current status of economic and social development since 2002;

(b) Member States already contributing at or above the United Nations scale are requested to retain their high level of contribution;

(c) Member States that are contributing below their highest ever payment are encouraged to strive to return to that level of funding.

13. The Executive Director notified each member State of their suggested level of contribution according to the voluntary indicative scale of contributions between August and October 2013. Following the responses received and further consultations with member States, the scale was finalized in early 2014 and is set out in the annex to the present note. Nevertheless, the actual amount of contribution to be provided by each member State remains at their discretion.

14. Applying the principles articulated above would require many member States to contribute to the Environment Fund many times more than in prior years. Therefore, where the requested increase is so substantive that it may not be rapidly achieved, the Executive Director has encouraged a commitment to gradually increasing the contributions towards the level of the voluntary scale, which

would provide a strong statement of support to UNEP in line with the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Furthermore, recognizing the current global financial situation, these increases are expected to be achieved mainly through a shift from earmarked contributions to the Environment Fund.

15. In addition to efforts by member States to increase their level of funding to the Environment Fund in accordance with the voluntary indicative scale of contributions, they are encouraged to work with the UNEP secretariat and other member States to implement all the aspects of the UNEP funding strategy, which was developed at the request of and in close consultation with member States in 2013 and approved by the Executive Director in January 2014. The funding strategy emphasizes the need for a shift towards an increase in non-earmarked funding, a widened base for contributions and more partnerships that catalyse resources and results at the global, regional and national levels. It also seeks an increased return on investment and accountability of the Programme as well as recognizing the need for better communication.

16. Universal membership requires member States to take global responsibility for the stable, secure, adequate and increased funding required to enable UNEP to respond effectively to their call for it to fulfil its role as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. Achieving this will require a collective effort and a continued commitment by the UNEP secretariat to continuously demonstrating efficiency and results.

Annex

Voluntary indicative scale of contributions 2014–2015

(United States dollars)

	2014		2015	
Country[a]	*United States dollars (budget: $110 million)*	*Percentage of budget*	*United States dollars (budget: $135 million)*	*Percentage of budget*
Afghanistan	5 500	0.005	6 750	0.005
Albania	11 000	0.010	13 500	0.010
Algeria	150 700	0.137	184 950	0.137
Andorra	39 474	0.036	39 474	0.029
Angola	11 000	0.010	13 500	0.010
Antigua and Barbuda	2 200	0.002	2 700	0.002
Argentina	475 200	0.432	583 200	0.432
Armenia	7 700	0.007	9 450	0.007
Australia	2 281 400	2.074	2 799 900	2.074
Austria	877 800	0.798	1 077 300	0.798
Azerbaijan	44 000	0.040	54 000	0.040
Bahamas	18 700	0.017	22 950	0.017
Bahrain	42 900	0.039	52 650	0.039
Bangladesh	11 000	0.010	13 500	0.010
Barbados	8 800	0.008	10 800	0.008
Belarus	61 600	0.056	75 600	0.056
Belgium	5 241 379	4.765	5 241 379	3.883
Belize	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Benin	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.003
Bhutan	1 450	0.001	1 780	0.001
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	9 900	0.009	12 150	0.009
Bosnia and Herzegovina	18 700	0.017	22 950	0.017
Botswana	18 700	0.017	22 950	0.017
Brazil	3 227 400	2.934	3 960 900	2.934
Brunei Darussalam	28 600	0.026	35 100	0.026
Bulgaria	51 700	0.047	63 450	0.047
Burkina Faso	5 646	0.005	5 646	0.004
Burundi	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Cabo Verde	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Cambodia	4 400	0.004	5 400	0.004
Cameroon	13 200	0.012	16 200	0.012
Canada	3 282 400	2.984	4 028 400	2.984
Central African Republic	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Chad	2 200	0.002	2 700	0.002
Chile	367 400	0.334	450 900	0.334
China	5 662 800	5.148	6 949 800	5.148
Colombia	284 900	0.259	349 650	0.259
Comoros	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Congo	5 500	0.005	6 750	0.005
Costa Rica	41 800	0.038	51 300	0.038
Côte d'Ivoire	12 100	0.011	14 850	0.011
Croatia	138 600	0.126	170 100	0.126
Cuba	75 900	0.069	93 150	0.069
Cyprus	51 700	0.047	63 450	0.047
Czech Republic	424 600	0.386	521 100	0.386
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	6 600	0.006	8 100	0.006

	2014		2015	
Country[a]	*United States dollars (budget: $110 million)*	*Percentage of budget*	*United States dollars (budget: $135 million)*	*Percentage of budget*
Democratic Republic of the Congo	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.003
Denmark	5 271 920	4.793	5 271 920	3.905
Djibouti	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Dominica	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Dominican Republic	49 500	0.045	60 750	0.045
Ecuador	48 400	0.044	59 400	0.044
Egypt	147 400	0.134	180 900	0.134
El Salvador	17 600	0.016	21 600	0.016
Equatorial Guinea	11 000	0.010	13 500	0.010
Eritrea	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Estonia	44 000	0.040	54 000	0.040
Ethiopia	11 000	0.010	13 500	0.010
Fiji	4 481	0.004	4 481	0.003
Finland	4 395 180	3.996	4 395 180	3.256
France	6 152 300	5.593	7 550 550	5.593
Gabon	22 000	0.020	27 000	0.020
Gambia	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Georgia	7 700	0.007	9 450	0.007
Germany	9 696 293	8.815	9 696 293	7.182
Ghana	15 400	0.014	18 900	0.014
Greece	701 800	0.638	861 300	0.638
Grenada	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Guatemala	29 700	0.027	36 450	0.027
Guinea	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Guinea-Bissau	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Guyana	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Haiti	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.003
Honduras	8 800	0.008	10 800	0.008
Hungary	292 600	0.266	359 100	0.266
Iceland	38 000	0.035	38 000	0.028
India	732 600	0.666	899 100	0.666
Indonesia	380 600	0.346	467 100	0.346
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	391 600	0.356	480 600	0.356
Iraq	74 800	0.068	91 800	0.068
Ireland	470 000	0.427	564 300	0.418
Israel	435 600	0.396	534 600	0.396
Italy	4 892 800	4.448	6 004 800	4.448
Jamaica	12 100	0.011	14 850	0.011
Japan	11 916 300	10.833	14 624 550	10.833
Jordan	24 200	0.022	29 700	0.022
Kazakhstan	133 100	0.121	163 350	0.121
Kenya	30 000	0.027	30 000	0.022
Kiribati	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Kuwait	300 300	0.273	368 550	0.273
Kyrgyzstan	2 200	0.002	2 700	0.002
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2 200	0.002	2 700	0.002
Latvia	51 700	0.047	63 450	0.047
Lebanon	46 200	0.042	56 700	0.042
Lesotho	9 975	0.009	9 975	0.007
Liberia	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Libya	156 200	0.142	191 700	0.142
Liechtenstein	9 900	0.009	12 150	0.009

Country[a]	2014 United States dollars (budget: $110 million)	2014 Percentage of budget	2015 United States dollars (budget: $135 million)	2015 Percentage of budget
Lithuania	80 300	0.073	98 550	0.073
Luxembourg	660 313	0.600	660 313	0.489
Madagascar	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.003
Malawi	2 200	0.002	2 700	0.002
Malaysia	309 100	0.281	379 350	0.281
Maldives	2 000	0.002	2 455	0.002
Mali	4 400	0.004	5 400	0.004
Malta	17 600	0.016	21 600	0.016
Marshall Islands	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Mauritania	2 200	0.002	2 700	0.002
Mauritius	14 300	0.013	17 550	0.013
Mexico	2 026 200	1.842	2 486 700	1.842
Micronesia (Federated States of)	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Monaco	26 437	0.024	26 437	0.020
Mongolia	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.003
Montenegro	5 500	0.005	6 750	0.005
Morocco	68 200	0.062	83 700	0.062
Mozambique	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.003
Myanmar	11 000	0.010	13 500	0.010
Namibia	11 000	0.010	13 500	0.010
Nauru	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Nepal	6 600	0.006	8 100	0.006
Netherlands	10 017 600	9.107	10 017 600	7.420
New Zealand	278 300	0.253	341 550	0.253
Nicaragua	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.003
Niger	2 200	0.002	2 700	0.002
Nigeria	99 000	0.090	121 500	0.090
Norway	3 000 000	2.727	3 000 000	2.222
Oman	112 200	0.102	137 700	0.102
Pakistan	93 500	0.085	114 750	0.085
Palau	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Panama	28 600	0.026	35 100	0.026
Papua New Guinea	4 400	0.004	5 400	0.004
Paraguay	11 000	0.010	13 500	0.010
Peru	128 700	0.117	157 950	0.117
Philippines	169 400	0.154	207 900	0.154
Poland	1 013 100	0.921	1 243 350	0.921
Portugal	521 400	0.474	639 900	0.474
Qatar	229 900	0.209	282 150	0.209
Republic of Korea	2 193 400	1.994	2 691 900	1.994
Republic of Moldova	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.003
Romania	248 600	0.226	305 100	0.226
Russian Federation	2 681 800	2.438	3 291 300	2.438
Rwanda	2 200	0.002	2 700	0.002
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Saint Lucia	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Samoa	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
San Marino	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.003
Sao Tome and Principe	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Saudi Arabia	950 400	0.864	1 166 400	0.864
Senegal	6 600	0.006	8 100	0.006
Serbia	44 000	0.040	54 000	0.040

	2014		2015	
Country[a]	*United States dollars (budget: $110 million)*	*Percentage of budget*	*United States dollars (budget: $135 million)*	*Percentage of budget*
Seychelles	1 200	0.001	1 350	0.001
Sierra Leone	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Singapore	422 400	0.384	518 400	0.384
Slovakia	188 100	0.171	230 850	0.171
Slovenia	110 000	0.100	135 000	0.100
Solomon Islands	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Somalia	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
South Africa	409 200	0.372	502 200	0.372
South Sudan	4 400	0.004	5 400	0.004
Spain	3 270 300	2.973	4 013 550	2.973
Sri Lanka	27 500	0.025	33 750	0.025
Sudan	11 000	0.010	13 500	0.010
Suriname	4 400	0.004	5 400	0.004
Swaziland	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.003
Sweden	4 882 142	4.438	4 882 142	3.616
Switzerland	4 358 546	3.962	4 358 546	3.229
Syrian Arab Republic	39 600	0.036	48 600	0.036
Tajikistan	3 300	0.003	4 050	0.003
Thailand	262 900	0.239	322 650	0.239
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	8 800	0.008	10 800	0.008
Timor-Leste	2 200	0.002	2 700	0.002
Togo	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Tonga	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Trinidad and Tobago	48 400	0.044	59 400	0.044
Tunisia	39 600	0.036	48 600	0.036
Turkey	1 460 800	1.328	1 792 800	1.328
Turkmenistan	20 900	0.019	25 650	0.019
Tuvalu	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Uganda	6 600	0.006	8 100	0.006
Ukraine	108 900	0.099	133 650	0.099
United Arab Emirates	654 500	0.595	803 250	0.595
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5 696 900	5.179	6 991 650	5.179
United Republic of Tanzania	9 900	0.009	12 150	0 009
Uruguay	57 200	0.052	70 200	0.052
Uzbekistan	16 500	0.015	20 250	0.015
Vanuatu	1 100	0.001	1 350	0.001
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	689 700	0.627	846 450	0.627
Viet Nam	46 200	0.042	56 700	0.042
Yemen	11 000	0.010	13 500	0.010
Zambia	6 600	0.006	8 100	0.006
Zimbabwe	2 200	0.002	2 700	0.002
Total[b]	**118 096 636**	**107.36**	**134 088 370**	**99.32**

[a]The United States of America does not participate in the voluntary indicative scale of contributions.

[b]The total biennial voluntary indicative scale of contributions is 2.9 per cent higher than the approved budget to accommodate possible negative discrepancies between the scale and actual contributions.